

REMARKS

Claims 148-174 were pending as of the Office Action mailed February 4, 2011.

In a Supplemental Amendment filed February 4, 2011, no claims were amended, claims 148-174 were cancelled, and claims 175-204 were newly added.

To expedite prosecution, and in accordance with the examiner's recommendation, the pending claim set from the Supplemental Amendment filed February 4, 2011 is presently resubmitted. Thus, no claims are being amended, cancelled, or newly added. Additionally, no new matter has been added. Support for the pending claims can be found within the applicant's specification at least at col. 7, lines 39-48; col. 9, line 5 through col. 13, line 5; and FIGS. 9-12.

Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing pending claims and the following remarks.

Interview Summary

The applicant thanks examiner Agwumezie for the courtesy of the telephone interview on February 22, 2011. The time spent with the applicant's representative Arrienne M. Lezak was greatly appreciated. During the interview, the examiner recommended resubmitting the claim set originally submitted in the Supplemental Amendment filed February 4, 2011.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 148-155, 157-164, and 166-173 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,412,717 ("Fischer") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,481,706 ("Peek").

Claims 156, 165, and 174 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over the combined teachings of Fischer and Peek, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,523,170 ("Cuomo").

As noted above, claims 148-174 were cancelled in the Supplemental Amendment filed February 4, 2011.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

Pending Claims 175-204

Support for pending claims 175-204 is noted above. The applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of Fischer, Peek, and Cuomo, alone or in combination, do not teach or describe each and every aspect of pending claims 175-204. Thus, the applicant submits that pending claims 175-204 are allowable.

Conclusion

The applicant respectfully requests that all pending claims be allowed.

By responding in the foregoing remarks only to particular positions taken by the examiner, the applicant does not acquiesce with other positions that have not been explicitly addressed. In addition, the applicant selecting some particular arguments for the patentability of a claim should not be understood as implying that no other reasons for the patentability of that claim exist. Finally, the applicant's decision to amend or cancel any claim should not be understood as implying that the applicant agrees with any positions taken by the examiner with respect to that claim or other claims.

Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 11, 2011

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